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CONFIDENTIAL

15 November 1954

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

SUBJECT: Post Mortem of NIE Production for First Six Months of 1954

BACKGROUND

1. This paper was prepared pursuant to IAC action on 11 May 1954 (IAC-M-151, paragraphs 5-7). At that meeting it was agreed that a paper would be produced semi-annually for IAC noting and for circulation by the DCI.

SUBSTANCE

2. We do not expect that any significant changes will be proposed at the meeting.

3. The Air Force representative did take exception to the statement made in the opening paragraph to the effect that we have not attempted to review the substantive judgments in estimates. He felt that an evaluation of the validity of the estimates made should be a regular part of the post mortem. The consensus was that an evaluation of the validity of estimates is a separate and distinct undertaking requiring a certain lapse of time between the completion of a given estimate and the validation study. (E.g., Evaluation of the validity of an estimate is impossible if attempted immediately on completion of the estimate.)

4. The representatives concluded that post mortem findings should be passed by IAC members to their respective collection units with a request that these units report back action taken and results obtained. It was agreed that the IAC should be included among those requested to act.

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SHERMAN KENT
Assistant Director
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